Yearning to Allah

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YEARNING TO ALLAH

One should do his worship longing and yearning to Allah, to jump to His worship. And worship, it is a meeting between you and Allah so look forward to it. Look at the story of Musa ‘alayhis-salaam when he had a meeting with Allah. Allah quotes him as saying, he himself says to Allah:

...وَعَجِلْتُ إِلَيْكَ رَبِّ لِتَرْضَىٰ ﴿طه: ٨٤﴾

And I hastened to You, O my Lord, that You might be pleased. (Surat Taha: 84)

And that is our topic. After Allah destroyed Fir'awn, Allah made an appointment with Musa ‘alayhis-salaam and Bani Israel (the Children of Israel), and that is where Allah spoke to him by the mountain and where he asked to see Allah, and where he was given the Tawraah. When he left Bani Israel back with Haroon ‘alayhis-salaam and the appointment with Allah got closer, Musa 'alayhis-salaam quickly hastened his footsteps and sped to the meeting. Musa ‘alayhis-salaam could have walked slowly, sluggishly. The appointment is set with Allah, the appointment is not going to be missed. But Musa ‘alayhis-salaam sped because he longed to Allah and he was eager to speak to Allah. You have five daily meetings with Allah, not even that, you have every single minute of Ramadhaan as a meeting with Allah. You can walk sluggishly to it, you can sprint to it, and you can cancel the meeting altogether. It is your choice.

What made Musa ‘alayhis-salaam hasten to the meeting with Allah? That is because he enjoyed it. He enjoyed a meeting with Allah, to converse with Allah, he enjoyed worship. You will not enjoy worship unless you ignite your longing and yearning and love to Allah. If someone responds to another who he loves, he responds to something they ask without that hasten and spark, that special excitement, you call that cold love, love with no flavour or taste. Your Ibadaah (worship) is your main course, you sprinkle that main course with longing and yearning to Allah so you can add excitement when you perform it.

Let us diagnose why we lose our longing and yearning to Allah. As times passes, your heart gets Raan on it, as Allah said:

كَلَّا ۖ بَلْ ۜ رَانَ عَلَىٰ قُلُوبِهِم مَّا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ ﴿المطففين: ١٤﴾

Nay! But on their hearts is the Raan (covering of sins and evil deeds) which they used to earn. (Surat al-Mutaffifeen: 14)

Raan (ران) are little black dots that are put on a heart every time one commits a sin. For some, they are washed away when they repent. And for others, it becomes a black heart like a crow. Now is the prosperous season to wash that Raan away. That rust needs to be deoxidized and those clothing need to be refurbished. You need to revive your longing to Allah, it may be dead but this is something you can bring back to life. It may be covered, but you can always clean it up.

HOW DO I REVIVE MY LONGING TO ALLAH?

In these few moments, let us take four quick steps to doing so.

TAKE THE QUR'AN TO HEART

Recite the Qur'an, understand the meaning and contemplate it, and understand the names and qualities of Allah as you read the Qur'an. Read the translation when you read the Qur'an, if you do not know the Arabic meaning. Read the Tafseer, we all have Tafseer Ibn Katheer and it has been translated, one of the greatest achievements. Hearts have a lock and you must break that lock to understand Qur'an.

أَفَلَا يَتَدَبَّرُونَ الْقُرْآنَ أَمْ عَلَىٰ قُلُوبٍ أَقْفَالُهَا ﴿محمد: ٢٤﴾

Do they not comprehend the Qur'an or is it that they have locks on their hearts? (Surat Muhammad: 24)

This verse does not mean to ask a question, it means to state. To state, do they not comprehend the Qur'an because they have locks on their hearts. When you read the Qur'an, do not be mindless of it. It is very easy to read the Qur'an, it is very easy to praise and glorify Allah, but your mind could be wandering somewhere else and that is what is difficult.

...وَلَا تُطِعْ مَنْ أَغْفَلْنَا قَلْبَهُ عَن ذِكْرِنَا... ﴿الكهف: ٢٨﴾

And obey not those whose hearts We have made heedless of Our remembrance. (Surat al-Kahf: 28)

Why did He say do not obey those whose hearts are heedless? Because many tongues remember Allah a lot but there are few hearts that tag along with the tongue.

Look at an ideal example of how you should read the Qur'an, the example of Abud-Dahdaah radhiallahu 'anhu and how Qur'an incited him to act when he heard one verse.

مَّن ذَا الَّذِي يُقْرِضُ اللَّهَ قَرْضًا حَسَنًا... ﴿البقرة: ٢٤٥﴾

Who is it that would loan Allah a goodly loan? (Surat al-Baqarah: 245)

Who wants to loan Allah? When Abud-Dahdaah heard it, he asked the Prophet sallallahu ‘alayhi wa sallam, he said Allah wants a loan from us O Prophet? Sallallahu ‘alayhi wa sallam. The Prophet sallallahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said yes. Abud-Dahdaah said give me your hand O Prophet of Allah, I give you a commitment to loan my orchard of dates. Abud-Dahdaah gave his entire, his best orchard of dates, six hundreds palms to the Prophet sallallahu ‘alayhi wa sallam. Abud-Dahdaah had many farms, he was wealthy. He went to the best one. You know which one? The one he and his own family were living in, and he told his wife pack up and let us go. Let us go, I have loaned this property to Allah and it no longer belongs to us. What do you think his wife said? Did she nag and complain? Why, what is going on? I am not going to say she did not even nag or complain, but rather she got up and took the children by the hand. The property has been loaned out and what is in the property is going with the property. She took the dates out of the mouths and sleeves of her children and led them out of the garden.

To long and yearn to Allah is to understand the word of Allah, let there be no hesitation nor any resistance in accepting and applying what is in the Qur’an. When the Prophet sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam heard what he did he said:

كَمْ مِنْ عِذْقٍ رَدَاحٍ فِي الْجَنَّةِ لأَبِي الدَّحْدَاحِ

Radaah (رداح) means huge date clusters. How many huge date clusters are there in Jannah for Abud-Dahdaah.

REMEMBER THE BLESSINGS AND PROVISION OF ALLAH

The second way to dust off your longing, yearning and love to Allah is to remember the countless blessings and provision of Allah over you. Humans have a tendency and a nature that Allah put within them to like those who do good for them. One shows good gratitude, gratefulness and appreciation over one who gives a bouquet of flowers or gives him help in getting a job. Sometimes it is a matter less than that and sometimes it is a matter more than that, yet Allah gave you more than all that and that which no one else could give you. There are plenty of verses in the Qur’an on hearing, on the tongue, on eyesight, on the sky, on the Earth, on the night and the day. Why do you think there are so many verses in the Qur’an that mention the blessings of Allah to us? To make this meaning surface in our hearts so our longing for Allah can illuminate in our hearts.

The more you know and the more you realise the blessings of Allah upon you, the more you long to thank Him. Sit everyday for a few moments and contemplate the blessings Allah gave you and your family. Look at those around you who have nothing and sit and think of Allah, that will ignite your love and yearning to Allah. Alhamdulillah, I woke up at peace when others are terrorised in prisons and under bombs. Alhamdulillah, I woke up safely in my home. Alhamdulillah, I am healthy in my body. Alhamdulillah, I have my provision for the day. Listen to the Hadith. Whomever wakes up safely in his home, healthy in his body and has his provision for the day, it is as if he has acquired all worldly possessions.

REGRET AND REPENT

Liven your heart and longing to Allah by regretting the past that went either in vain, you have to regret that, the past that went with no worship and the past that went with some sins. Regret it enough to ignite repentance, which entails yearning to worship Allah. After you remember, regret and repent, put a period there. Put a period on your past and start a new sentence, flip the page and start on a new page. Now, your aim is to catch up and be better than ever and better than anyone else.

REMEMBER THE FOREMOST

Remember the foremost so you can be with the foremost and compare yourself to them, that will spark a feeling to urge you to compete with them.

وَسَارِعُوا إِلَىٰ مَغْفِرَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ... ﴿آل عمران: ١٣٣﴾

And march forth in the way (which leads to) forgiveness from your Lord. (Surat Aali 'Imraan: 133)

سَابِقُوا إِلَىٰ مَغْفِرَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ... ﴿الحديد : ٢١﴾

Race one with another in hastening towards forgiveness from your Lord (Allah). (Surat al-Hadeed: 21)

...وَفِي ذَٰلِكَ فَلْيَتَنَافَسِ الْمُتَنَافِسُونَ ﴿المطففين: ٢٦﴾

And in Jannah, let the competitors compete. (Surat al-Mutaffifeen: 26)

Yes, in the levels of Jannah you need to compete. Longing and yearning to Allah is like fuel for your Imaan. It entices you to worship Allah ecstatically, with pleasure and delight. When the spark in your worship fades, when the longing to Allah dims in your heart, remember

the ultimate destiny you are trying to achieve and get. The destiny of those whose love, long, and yearn for Allah.

REMEMBER THIS HADITH

Post this Hadith that I am going to say in your mind, and in front of your computer, in your house and in your bedroom, and most importantly never let it get out of your heart.

In Sahih Muslim, the Prophet sallallahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said:

إِذَا دَخَلَ أَهْلُ الْجَنَّةِ الْجَنَّةَ قَالَ يَقُولُ اللَّهُ تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى تُرِيدُونَ شَيْئًا أَزِيدُكُمْ...

When those who deserve Paradise enter Paradise, Allah subhaanahu wa ta’aala will ask, do you wish Me to give you anything more?

Everyone is occupied in the happiness and joy of Jannah.

إِنَّ أَصْحَابَ الْجَنَّةِ الْيَوْمَ فِي شُغُلٍ فَاكِهُونَ ﴿يس: ٥٥﴾

Verily, the dwellers of the Paradise, that Day, will be busy in joyful things. (Surat Yaseen: 55)

...فَيَقُولُونَ أَلَمْ تُبَيِّضْ وُجُوهَنَا...

The people will say, have you not brightened our faces?

...أَلَمْ تُدْخِلْنَا الْجَنَّةَ وَتُنَجِّنَا مِنْ النَّارِ...

Have you not made us enter Paradise and saved us from Jahannam?

...فَيَكْشِفُ الْحِجَابَ فَمَا أُعْطُوا شَيْئًا أَحَبَّ إِلَيْهِمْ مِنْ النَّظَرِ إِلَى رَبِّهِمْ

Allah will lift the veil from their eyes and everything given to them will be nothing compared to the sight of their Lord.

Long and yearn to the mercy of Allah, to the meeting of Allah, to seeing Allah in Jannah and to Firdaws. To Firdaws, so the ceiling of your palace will be the throne of Allah. Your aim this Ramadhaan is to have the throne of Allah as your ceiling, that is going to be the top of your

ceiling. And from your sides and in your neighbourhood, you are going to try to be as close to the Waseelah as possible. You want to be in the neighbourhood of Abu Bakr and Umar, Uthman, Ali, Khalid, Abu Ubaydah, Aishah, Khadeejah, Umm Salamah and Safiyyah radhiallahu ‘anhum ajma’een.

That is how you achieve your longing to Allah. In conclusion, know that in your path to igniting this desire to Allah, you are going to come across bandits of the hearts that we always mention. The jobs, prestige, money, children and spouses. Some may be pleasure and delight but do not let them be a Fitnah.